

Application No. 09/830,778
Attorney Docket No. 021058-0280281
Page 2

AMENDMENTS

This complete listing of the claims replaces all prior listings or versions of the claims in this application:

Claims 1-28 (cancelled).

29. (original) An initiating element for use in a detonator comprising an initiation portion and optionally a transition portion wherein said initiation portion is at least partially contained within a confinement sleeve and comprises an intimate mixture of a relatively large particle size, porous, powdered explosive having interstitial spaces, and a relatively small particle size, high burn-rate pressurising initiator located within said interstitial spaces.

Claims 30-34 (cancelled).

35. (new) An initiating element of claim 29, wherein said porous powdered explosive comprises PETN, RDX, HMX, Tetryl, TNT or a mixture thereof.

36. (new) An initiating element of claim 35, wherein said porous powdered explosive comprises PETN.

37. (new) An initiating element of claim 36, wherein said PETN has a number average particle size of greater than 100 microns.

38. (new) An initiating element of claim 29, wherein said high burn-rate pressurising initiator is selected from the group consisting of potassium picrate, potassium styphnate, lead styphnate, potassium trinitrobenzoate, alkali or alkaline earth metal salts of nitro-aromatic compounds, and mixtures thereof.

39. (new) An initiating element of claim 38, wherein said high burn-rate pressurising initiator is potassium picrate.

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Application No. 09/830,778
Attorney Docket No. 021058-0280281
Page 3

40. (new) An initiating element of 29, wherein said high burn-rate pressurising initiator comprises a mixture of two separate components: a material having a high burn rate at low pressure and an oxidizer.

41. (new) An initiating element of claim 40, wherein said oxidizer comprises potassium perchlorate or ammonium perchlorate.

42. (new) An initiating element of claim 41, wherein said oxidizer comprises potassium perchlorate.

43. (new) An initiating element of claim 29, wherein said initiation portion comprises 70 to 90% by weight of said porous powdered explosive, 5 to 15% by weight of an oxidizer and 5 to 15% by weight of a material having a high burn rate at low pressure, wherein said oxidizer and material having a high burn rate at low pressure together form said high burn-rate pressurising initiator.

44. (new) An initiating element of claim 29, wherein said transition portion is present.

45. (new) An initiating element of claim 44, wherein said transition portion comprises PETN, RDX, HMX, Tetryl or a mixture thereof.

46. (new) An initiating element of claim 45, wherein said transition portion comprises PETN.

47. (new) An initiating element of claim 46, wherein said PETN is pressed to a density ranging from 1.0 to 1.2 g/cc.

48. (new) An initiating element of claim 29, wherein said initiation portion comprises a mixture of 5 to 15% by weight potassium picrate having a number average particle size of less than 10 microns, 5 to 15% by weight potassium perchlorate having a particle size of less than 10

Application No. 09/830,778
Attorney Docket No. 021058-0280281
Page 4

microns, and 70 to 90% by weight PETN having a particle size of greater than 100 microns, and wherein said initiation portion has been pressed into a confinement sleeve so as to have a density ranging from 1.2 to 1.5 g/cc.

49. (new) An initiating element of claim 46, wherein said transition portion comprises PETN having a particle size of greater than 100 microns and has been pressed into a confinement sleeve so as to have a density ranging from 1.0 to 1.2 g/cc.

50. (new) An initiating element of claim 29, wherein said initiation portion further comprises at least one additional component selected from the group consisting of explosives, propellants, gas-generating compounds, organic fuels, binders and combinations thereof.